

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of reproducing information in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an information recording medium containing characteristic information and having other information recorded thereon;

a client obtaining the characteristic information of the information recording medium;

the client transmitting the characteristic information to a server;

the server obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

subsequently, the server transmitting information based on the usage information to the client; and

subsequently, the client reproducing the other information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information,

wherein the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium prior to said providing step.

2. (Currently amended) A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a second server containing second information;

subsequently, a client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium;

the client transmitting the characteristic information to a first server;
the first server obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;
the first server transmitting first information based on the usage information to the second server;
the second server transmitting said second information to the client in accordance with the first information based on the usage information; and
the client reproducing the information based on the second information received from the second server,
wherein the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium prior to said providing step.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the client transmits the characteristic information to the first server via the second server.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A server providing information to a client using an information recording medium in response to a request of the client, the server comprising:

a first part configured to receive characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client;

a second part configured to obtain usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information; and

a third part configured to transmit to the client information on authorization of reproduction of information from the information recording medium based on the usage information, to enable the reproduction of said information from the information recording medium,

wherein the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium before the first part receives the characteristic information.

6. (Original) The server as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a fourth part configured to receive from the client the characteristic information of the information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information; and

a fifth part configured to delete the usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving, based on a request of a client using an information recording medium, characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client;

(b) obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information; and

(c) transmitting to the client information on authorization of reproduction of information from the information recording medium based on the usage information, and thereby enabling the reproduction of said information from the information recording medium,

wherein the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium before the characteristic information is received.

8. (Original) The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

(d) receiving from the client the characteristic information of the information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information; and

(e) deleting the usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a method, the method comprising the steps of:
providing an information recording medium having characteristic information and other information recorded thereon;

subsequently, obtaining the characteristic information of the information recording medium;

requesting a server to provide information and transmitting the characteristic information to the server so that the server obtains usage information of the information recording medium;

receiving information based on the usage information from the server; and

subsequently, reproducing the other information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information, wherein the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium before said providing step.